

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

The upcoming visit of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas presents an important opportunity for the United States to encourage ongoing reforms in the Palestinian Authority. We are writing to urge you to make sure that the serious problem of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement by Palestinian media outlets is a high priority in your discussions.

It has been widely reported that Palestinian Television on May 13 aired a live sermon delivered in a Gaza Mosque by Sheikh Ibrahim Mudairis, which was filled with virulent anti-Semitic attacks and denials of the Holocaust. During the sermon the Sheik asserted that God has predetermined that the Jewish problem will be solved with the extermination of the Jews. This broadcast, coming just weeks after the world commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, is an alarming example of the ubiquitous hatred that has become entrenched in Palestinian discourse.

Efforts by the United States to advance the Road Map, reform the Palestinian security services, fight corruption, and dismantle terrorist organizations are critical. Yet, it is equally important for us to work simultaneously to promote coexistence by pressuring the Palestinian leadership to act against incitement.

Already, Palestinian Authority officials have called for the sheikh to be suspended and the Palestinian Authority has ordered the Palestinian State Information Service to take an Arabic translation of the notorious *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* off of its website, but much more needs to be done. For example, textbooks produced by the Palestinian Authority still fail to acknowledge Israel's existence, and articles and cartoons in the official Palestinian media frequently demonize Jews. When you meet with President Abbas, we hope you will urge him to take further measures to stop the teaching of hatred and violence against Israel and Jews.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



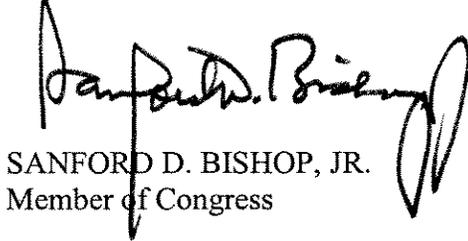
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Member of Congress



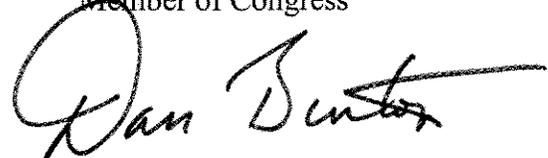
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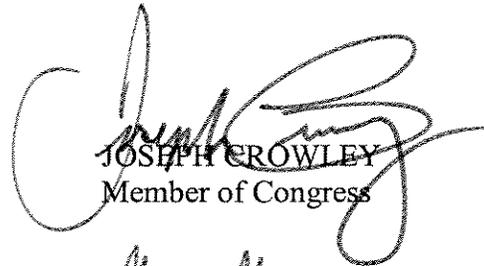
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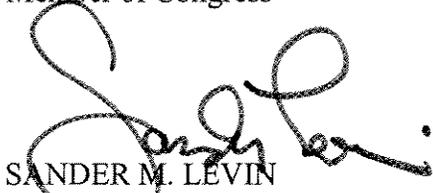
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Member of Congress



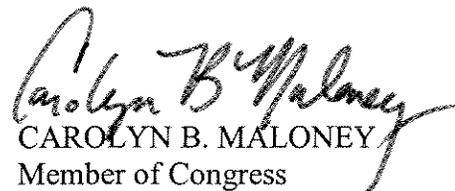
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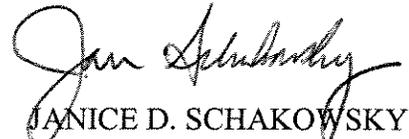

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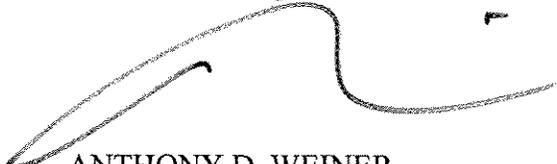

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